

POSTGRADUATE COURSES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

The Department of Anthropology have 4 MA programmes and one PhD programme:

MA Programmes - MA Anthropology; MA Anthropology & Development; MA Linguistic Anthropology; MA Creole (2-year program)

Students must take a total of 60 credits of coursework and also complete a Thesis AN634T (30 credits)

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Semester
AN670	Key Concepts in Anthropology I	5	1
AN673	Key Concepts in Anthropology II	5	1
AN675	Theory in Anthropology	5	1
AN676	Ethnographic Practice	5	1
AN677	Graduate Seminar in Anthropology	5	1
AN692	Anthropology and Development (compulsory for MA Anthropology & Development)	10	1
AN691	Linguistic Anthropology (compulsory for MA Linguistic Anthropology)	10	1
AN674	Key Concepts in Anthropology III	5	2
AN862	Ethnography Winter School	5	2
AN678	Graduate Seminar in Anthropology	5	2
AN647	Foundations in Medical Anthropology	5	2
AN667	Topics in Medical Anthropology	5	2
AN693	Anthropology of Digital Media	10	2
AN694	Immigration and Diversity in Higher Education	5	2
PD602	People, Society and Design	10	2
KD631	Political Economy of Development	5	2

In the autumn and spring semesters, students complete an intensive course of six-week compulsory modules (5 credits each), which will introduce them to key anthropological concepts and areas of research as well as ethnographic practices and anthropological theory. The graduate seminar in anthropology runs through both semester and is designed as space where students learn about the latest developments in anthropology and prepare their own MA research projects in discussion with visiting scholars and Anthropology Department academic staff. Students also have a choice of topical modules, on subjects such as language, development, medicine, material culture, or society and design. Students develop a proposal for a research project during the taught year in consultation with a faculty advisor. In the summer, students register for a 30-credit Thesis module, and turn in a completed thesis on their project by early September. MA Creole is a two-year program whereby students are required to spend two of the four semesters at one or more European Partner Institutions (University of Vienna, University of Barcelona, University of Lyon, University of Ljubljana, University of Bern, Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan).

Course Descriptions

AN670 Key Concepts in Anthropology I // AN673 Key Concepts in Anthropology II // AN674 Key Concepts in Anthropology III

These modules introduce major concepts in anthropology, demonstrating a range of theoretical and ethnographic approaches through which anthropologists study human cultures and societies. The goal is to help students understand, interpret and engage with real-world issues by equipping them conceptual and substantive knowledge and capacity to locate these varied approaches within anthropological traditions. The key concepts explored, will include: Module 1) culture, cultural critique, gender, class, race and ethnicity, nation, states and citizenship; Module 2) religion, ritual, performance and embodiment, language, meaning and music; Module 3) power and history, poverty, migrations, world markets, conflict and violence, and environment.

AN675 Theory in Anthropology

This module provides an advanced foundation to key social theories, especially from the European Enlightenment tradition but also up to the work of recent post-structural and postcolonial figures. Students will be challenged to grapple with different theories, comparing and contrasting theories before developing their own analysis.

AN676 Ethnographic Practice

Ethnography most commonly describes a core methodological tool in anthropology, but it is also an epistemological tool that anthropologists employ in positioning ourselves and others in the 'field' of research. In this module, we will explore changing attitudes to research methods in anthropology and use key examples to foreshadow preparations for student research proposals. We will read some classic ethnographic texts while considering a range of methodological problems: entry to the 'field', data collection, inter-subjective dimensions of fieldwork experience. Moreover, students will be encouraged to think more broadly about new territories of ethnographic endeavour such as ethnography in corporate encounters, sensory ethnography and current approaches to gathering, writing and disseminating knowledge. Student participation and peer discussion will be expected in all sessions.

AN677 Graduate Seminar in Anthropology I // AN678 Graduate Seminar in Anthropology II

These seminars are designed as space for postgraduate students (MA and Ph.D. students) to develop their research projects in discussion with visiting scholars and Anthropology Department academic staff. Weekly meetings will consist of: 1) seminars in which visiting scholars present their research; 2) discussions with visiting scholars about the relevance of their work to the students' own research and to the current state of the field; 3) presentations and discussions of students' work in progress under the guidance of Anthropology Department academic staff.

AN692 Anthropology and Development

This module provides the foundations for the study of Anthropology and Development by situating the long process of the making of the contemporary Global South at the intersection of world historical and political economic flows. We will begin with a close reading of key texts in the field of historical anthropology in order to trace the emergence of mass poverty, inequality and conflict in our world today. The latter part of the module introduces current anthropological perspectives on, and engagements with, issues of sustainable international development.

AN691 Linguistic Anthropology

This module offers an advanced introduction to Linguistic Anthropology, focusing on classic theory and its recent extensions. The module features: a concise introduction to linguistic form and structure; a survey of historical theories and methodologies for the study of language in use (interactional sociolinguistics, Conversation Analysis, the ethnography of speaking); the development of conceptual tools for the semiotic analysis of language and related cultural forms; analysis of language style, processes of social, gender and ethnic identification, and communities of practice; introduction to the anthropology of poetic speech, performance, and literary texts; methodologies for the study of social life of language from face-to-face interaction to the formation of large-scale publics; exploration of new cultural and linguistic forms emerging in electronically-mediated communication.

AN862 Ethnography Winter School

This module is a comprehensive introduction to ethnography. 'Ethnography' is more than a 'method': it comprises a whole style of thought encompassing forms of observation, analysis, and writing. The module therefore emphasizes analysis and theory in addition to the research practices (interviewing, participant observation, note-taking) conventionally associated with qualitative research methodology. Themes covered include: culture and difference, contexts and cases (working in NGOs, clinics, corporations), styles of representation and the politics of knowledge, research ethics and ethnographic engagement. The module is also structured as a workshop, so that ethnographers at various stages of their careers -- from students planning proposals, to dissertation writers analysing previously collected material, to research professionals who may not be based in academia -- will be able to produce work within the module that relates to their respective career stages, locations, and goals. This work, such as a proposal draft or a stretch of ethnographic writing, forms the basis for module assessment.

AN647 Foundations of Medical Anthropology

These modules offer an advanced introduction to the broad field of Medical Anthropology, focusing on the classical anthropological contributions to this important subfield with a focus on global health, health care systems, care more generally, and suffering. Students will explore ethnographic work on patient-physician relationships, the social and community contexts of care provision, and the impact of bio-medicine on Western and non-Western populations.

AN667 Topics in Medical Anthropology

To ground Anthropology students ongoing research on Medical Anthropology with directed readings and small group discussion. Except in certain cases, students must have completed AN647 to take this course.

AN693 Anthropology of Digital Media

According to the International Telecommunication Union, over half the world's population were online by the end of the 2019. Of this number the majority of internet users are from developing countries, and users in Asia and Africa account for the majority. More and more we are all leading digital lives but because the internet is a global phenomenon it can too easily carry a series of assumptions regarding how it is used or who it is for. In this seminar we will consider digital media in diverse socio-political and cultural contexts in order to explore how individual, group and institutional interactions are increasingly mediated by these technologies. Are ideas and norms regarding human interaction changing? In part one we will focus on themes such as the presentation of self in online fora, ideas surrounding the internet and privacy, the encroachment of commercial interests in branding and advertising on digital media. In part two we will consider these topics through a close reading of ethnographic examples including Filipina migrants in the UK, hashtag activists in the United States, digital migration in urban China, display and disguise in mobile phone use amongst young Mozambicans and smartphone use among older adults in Ireland. Student participation and peer discussion will be expected in all sessions.

PD602 People, Society and Design

(module offered in collaboration with the Department of Design Innovation)

How do people use designs and technology at different times and in different cultures? How can social and design research contribute to tackling societal challenges? How do user researchers and designers work with stakeholders to co-create new experiences, services or manage change in complex organisations? Drawing on case studies and invited lectures from professionals working in Design and Design related fields, students will develop an understanding of the lives of design researchers working in the public, private and not for profit sectors. Over the course of the module, students will 'go to the field' to carry out qualitative interviews with stakeholders and learn to prepare a 'hot report' or case study. They will build upon this data to ideate, develop and present a concept for a new or improved experience, service or product in Ireland.

AN694 Immigration and Diversity in Higher Education

(2020/21 Fulbright Visiting Professor – Peter Guarnaccia, Rutgers University)

What drives immigrant students to succeed in higher education? One factor appears to be the skills immigrant students learn while balancing keeping their family cultures alive and learning the culture of their host country. Another is the "immigrant bargain" that forms between parents who sacrifice for educational opportunities for their children and the drive of immigrant students to succeed as a result. We

will look at a range of research and popular literature on this topic. We will examine similarities and differences with the experiences of immigrant students in Ireland.

KD601 Political Economy of Development (module offered in collaboration with the Department of International Development)

The core aim of this module is to develop learners' understanding of the basic drivers around growth, inequality and sustainability within development on both a global level and also in the context of their own society. Module participants will explore the interconnections between economics, politics and the environment in the context of development policy and practice; reflect on notions of inequality; examine the roles and influence of the multilateral international financial institutions and the world trade organisations in shaping the global development agenda; review aid typologies, donor trends, and current debates on aid effectiveness; analyse the positive and negatives associated with the use of natural resources in development and understand the shifting economic and political shape of development.

Students can also avail of selected modules in the Departments of Geography, Media Studies and in the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

PhD in Anthropology – Four-Year Program

The Department of Anthropology offers a structured PhD programme, which includes theoretical and practical training in Anthropology. The PhD is an advanced research degree that requires considerable initiative on the part of the student to engage in independent, original scholarship. The objective of the PhD programme is to provide students with professional training in Anthropological research and to produce scholars capable of contributing to international networks in the discipline in an original, ethical, and effective fashion. (Open/Rolling Application Deadline, Funding Available via competitive grants and fellowships).

Department of Anthropology

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